

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, December 11, 2006

Present:

Cheri Hall, Director Dave Marcotte

Kurt Schatz, Chair Alan Gerew

Alice Lavigne, Vice Chair Al Low

Guests: Pat Henderson and Nancy Faford Bruce Pilling and Steve Pichie.

Absent: Al Musso

Excused: Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairperson, at the Burrillville Parks & Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.

Minutes of November 14, 2006 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by David Marcotte. Motion passed 4-0.

The Director made a recommendation to move the Freedom Park Gate

item to be first as part of Old Business.

Old Business:

Freedom Park Gate

The Director reported that the gate for Freedom Park has been ordered and is being made at a cost of \$150. A copy of the proposed draft of a town ordinance to go before the Ordinance Sub-committee regarding the time change for parks to close at dusk was shared with the commission. After a survey of other local town park closings, the finding showed that 90% close at dusk. Only if the Parks & Recreation Department Director or Town Council authorize by permit can any parks be open past dusk for special programs or event.

Nancy Faford and Pat Henderson, neighbors of Freedom Park, reported on the problems going on at Freedom Park with older children abusing the park. If vandalism is occurring, the police department should be contacted. Pat Henderson suggested that maybe the park should be shut down for a couple of weeks due to the problems that have arisen.

Special Guest: Bruce Pilling and Steve Pichie-Girls Softball

Bruce Pilling requested permission for the Girls Softball League, as

part of the Burrillville Little League, be granted permission to do work on the Hauser Field softball infields. Currently there is stone on the infields and they would like to redo the infields including digging out the one infield that is loam. The cost of the new infield mix would be at the Parks and Recreation Department's expense. Currently the Recreation Commission is putting together a field use fee schedule. Any work completed by the leagues on the town's fields would be taken into consideration when calculating those fees. The Little League Girls Softball Division would also like to maintain the infields because the raking being done by the Department of Public Works would not be beneficial. The Director will alert the Department of Works of these maintenance changes.

Little League, Girls Softball and Men's Softball will be working together to adhere to what is best for the Hauser Field Facility. It was recommended that fine stone dust previously purchased through Material Sand and Gravel be utilized for the infields. The league has volunteered to bring the water line out to each one of the fields for wetting the infields before games. Since all the locks have been changed on the restroom building, keys will now have to be signed out and authorized by the Director of Parks & Recreation.

Bruce Pilling requested that a hole be placed in the front of the field house building to be utilized as a snack bar for the softball league with all proceeds going back to the league to assist in purchasing equipment. It would be just packaged items with a refrigerator for

drinks. The Director recommended the league put something in writing regarding their snack bar request to be submitted to the Town Council for review. The Director will request that the tractor be removed by the Department of Public Works from the Hauser Field building.

Bruce Pilling requested the installation of a batting cage be completed. Approval was granted as long as the poles fit into sleeves in the ground and then the sleeves are capped off when not in use.

The Recreation Commission requested the league representatives come to the March 12, 2007 Recreation Commission meeting to finalize these plans for the spring.

Correspondence: Memo from Council 94

The Director did not bring the letter to tonight's meeting but one was received from Council 94 in reference to inappropriate things said on the October 10, 2006 taped meeting minutes. Council 94 thanked the Director for addressing the problem and to alert them if it came up again.

Good & Welfare:

River Walk Ribbon Ceremony took place today. Joseph Diaz of the Department of Environmental Management alerted the director that monies have become available for the R.R.R.C. to distribute for possibly the \$150,000 grant application submitted by the Town of Burrillville Planning Department for the next component of the River Walk Project for a local bike path to connect Harrisville and Pascoag to the River Walk.

David Marcotte questioned about the previously proposed bike path running along the old rail bed. Quotes were higher than anticipated for the needed Barnes property up to \$400,000. The Town Planner is currently looking into a possible easement instead where gravel would be utilized versus payment. David Marcotte questioned if this area could also be utilized for possible ball fields. Recently the Director stated that the Town Manager suggested revisiting the proposed plans for a playing field behind the Burrillville Police Department. David Marcotte stated that since that land is not large enough to support more than one field, other land should be sought for a Men's Softball Complex. The Director stated that there is a need for a new field for lacrosse. Since the bonds passed, the State of Rhode recreational development grant round should be next year for possible new fields. The match would be 50/50.

Discussion took place regarding the new football field complex committee not taking advantage of any recreational purpose grants with the possible deeding of the property changed to recreational purposes even though the project is currently listed under the Recreation Department budget.

The Branch River Park courts need resurfacing at a cost of \$115,000 which could be applied for through the State of Rhode Department of Environmental Management recreational development small grant round for recreational development. Funding sources for new lighting at Branch River Parks will also be sought. A letter has been submitted to the former National Grid, New England Gas Company, to investigate any grant sources available for \$85,000 and another \$4,000 for the power supply box.

The Recreation Center expansion has been put off until 2010 for the Capital Improvement Plan. Another capital request was submitted for a Ford Escape vehicle since the previous vehicle is off the road. Temporarily the police department van has been utilized since the Director's personal vehicle would not be sufficient and would not be labeled as a town vehicle. Another suggested application for the second small State of Rhode Department of Environmental Management recreational development grant round would be for new updated playground equipment for Hauser Field complex where \$23,000 in fees in lieu of land coming from the Harrisville building project could possibly be utilized as matching funds. The Town

Manager is investigating why the Recreation Commission wasn't contacted regarding the decision on receiving funds versus land from the Harrisville building project.

The replacement of the Spring Lake Beach dock to an updated construction material called a connect-a-dock that has an approximate ten year life expectancy is being suggested with funds from Spring Lake Beach profits. Aluminum docks do not allow for the necessary lifeguard chair to be placed on the dock. Winterization of the Spring Lake Champlin Recreation Hall is being suggested with matching funds for a Champlin Foundation grant coming from Spring Lake Beach profits. In the future the brown lifeguard house either needs replacement or renovation. If it is utilized as a support facility for the beach then grant funds can be sought.

Since the Senior Citizens are not interested in making part of the Harrisville Mill Complex as a senior center, a teen center is being suggested with the Boys and Girls Club working with the town to run the program. A meeting with a Burrillville High School students and Boys and Girls Club representative took place last week regarding a teen center in Burrillville as a satellite of the Providence Boys and Girls Club. An addition of a new gym is being investigated by the architects for a proposed Boys and Girls Club teen center. A future meeting will be held with the directors of other local Boys and Girls

Clubs regarding specific requirements and to address the town's needs and concerns. A future presentation will be given to the Recreation Commission and the Town Council by the Boys and Girls Club regarding their proposal.

Old Business (continued):

Branch River Track

(Reviewed above)

Field Use Fees

Taking into consideration that since grant funding sources were utilized for the field renovations, fees cannot be charged for out of town usage more than twice what is charged for resident usage for tournaments etc. A waiver can be utilized if leagues have completed maintenance on the fields.

Relay for Life

David Marcotte noted that a newspaper article was in the Woonsocket Call recently noting that now is the time to start preparing for the Woonsocket and "Burrillville" Relay for Life which will take place in 2007. Since the Recreation Commission is not supporting a Burrillville Relay for Life at Branch River Park in 2007, Paula of the

American Cancer Society was contacted reiterating the reason for Burrillville not supporting the 2007 Relay for Life and it was suggested that they combine with Glocester's Relay for Life.

Callahan Playground

The playground is completed. The Director did oversee the project but the Callahan School Renovation Committee is refusing to pay for the change order for the necessary extra site preparation not completed by the school renovation contractor. It was decided by the Director, Chuck Ramondo of the Playground Equipment Company and the Callahan School Renovation Project Clerk of the Works to continue the installation when the problems arose versus stopping the installation to wait for official approval for any necessary change order. The insurance company has already approved the completion of the new Callahan playground equipment.

Due to these problems, the Director stated that she will not oversee another school playground project. Chuck Ramondo of the Playground Equipment Company has stated that this problem does not affect his relationship with the town for other future recreational playground projects.

Holiday Ornaments

The Bicentennial Committee, who funded the purchase of the Bicentennial Holiday ornaments, has given permission for the Director to give the Recreation Commission, Town Council and School Committee members, with the remaining to be sent to Burrillville residents who are currently serving our country in the military.

Christmas Program-December 2nd-1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

There was a great turnout for this year's Santa on the Town Common festivities.

Revised Meeting Schedule

The Recreation Commission confirmed receipt of the revised meeting schedule noting the new meeting location of the new Parks & Recreation office.

C.I.P. & Operating Budget-Recreation & BEC

The Director questioned if the Recreation Commission is in agreement with the C.I.P. requests reviewed above. The only changes to the operating budget are increases to the utilities.

A motion was made by Alice Lavigne to approve the Director submitting the C.I.P. Requests and Operation Budget to the Budget Board. Seconded by Alan Gerew. Motion passed 4-0.

Freedom Park gate

(Reviewed above)

New Business:

Boys & Girls Club

(Reviewed above)

Burrillville Wrestling Club

The Parks & Recreation Department is sponsoring the new Burrillville Wrestling Club being held as an after school program at Callahan Elementary School. David Marcotte questioned how the department checks the qualifications of the instructors of the programs. The Director reported references, qualifications, and background checks are completed.

Art Classes & After School Hoops-Callahan

Both Art Classes and After School Hoops have expanded their

offering to Callahan Elementary School, as well as Steere Farm Elementary.

New England Training Institute (N.E.T.I.)

The Burrillville Extended Care Site Coordinators, along with the Director, will be leading a workshop on “The Building Blocks to a Successful Program” at the Rhode Island and Recreation Parks Association annual conference at Alton Jones U.R.I. Extension.

In March at the New England Training Institute the same workshop will be offered.

The Director distributed the Monthly Recreation Calendars and program flyers for the commission’s review. The Director then reviewed the Goals and Objectives information updating the current status of prior project and future goals and objectives demonstrating the need for additional staff for the department.

Alice Lavigne questioned if anything was heard on the status of the rink. The Director gave an update on the current rink concession stand operations being performed by a Booster Club versus the concession stand bid award winner and the status of a replacement Rink Director. Concern was voiced over the priority of use being for the Burrillville youth. Alan Gerew stated that Bryant University might be contacted to assist in the funding of renovations of the rink.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by David Marcotte. Seconded by Alice Lavigne.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Motion Passed 4-0.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2007 6:30p.m., Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI.

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